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since 1911.
(Ha fooled Ya!)

Wednesday, February 19, 1992

Waldman fish workers get raw deal

by Dave Ley

Striking workers at the Waldman's fish market continue to put pressure on the firm as students join the picket lines to show solidarity.

Workers have been on strike since January 23 demanding a return of working hours that were cut and compensation for lost hours.

"We aren't asking for much, just what we always had," said one striker, who wished to remain anonymous.

Workers have had their pay slashed from $480 to $300 a week and benefits such as health insurance and vacation pay have been cut. In addition, their hours have been cut from 40 to 30 hours a week.

An injunction was placed against the workers preventing them from protesting fifteen feet in front of the store. Outside the perimeter, stirkers are prohibited from forming groups of more than four strikers.

Strikers were frequently harrassed by hired security guards and police officers who came to enforce the injunction to the letter.

A number of Montréal students, including McGill students, showed up to join the strikers in a show of support.

"We are here to give support to the strikers and keep up the moral," said McGill student Chantal Sundaram. "The injunction against the workers prevents them from protesting in front of the store, but students can take their place."

According to Daniel Rambert, of the Union des Employés de Commerce, who helped organize the strike, the store has used many underhanded tactics in dealing with the workers.

"They announced the pay cuttbacks and reduction of working hours with very little consultation with the employees," said Rambert. "Some of the workers have been here ten or twenty years, this is not the way to treat your employees."



DAILY PHOTO: TONY REVOY

Striking Waldman's worker protests fishy capitalists

Rambert added that since a new owner took over approximately 5 years ago, only 23 of the original 125 workers remain.

"These people have been loyal and dedicated to the store for a long time, and now their employer turns around and does this," said one nearby resident who wished to remain anonymous. "Many of them have families and bills to pay off, with the money they're getting now, who could survive?"

Rambert agreed. "If their pay is down to $300 a week, minus taxes, union dues, and other expenses it works out to $200, not enough to support a family."

According to Rambert the strike has larger implications.

"The owner of this store also owns a number of similar operations," he said. "Many of them are non-unionized and the owner is planning to do the same thing there as he has done here."

Sundaram also noted the importance of the strike to students.

"In these recessionary times, when we are all facing cutbacks, we should support those who are being hurt," she said.

There is a student solidarity picket every saturday from 13h00 to 15h00 outside Waldman's, on the corner of Roy and St. Laurent. All students are asked to join in.

Management students forced to buy book

by Stefan Clulow

Management students in an organizational behaviour class are outraged by a professor who is forcing them to buy a textbook he co-edited.

Students in professor Mendonca's class were told to cough up $45 to purchase an anthology of articles, and pay for photocopies to be distributed in class. The professor threatened to fail students who did not pay up, regardless of whether or not they needed to purchase the textbook.

"I might fail if I don't buy the book," said one student. "It might be required, but I shouldn't have to buy it."

The readings for the course are unavailable in either the bookstore or the library. They must be purchased at the organizational behavior office with a money order or cheque. The office does not accept cash.

Professor Kanungo, organizational behaviour coordinator, claimed students could not pay cash because the funds went directly to the "McGill budget which administers the courses."

The organizational behavior office "won't make money on it," said professor Kanungo.

Students in the course say the policy is both unfair and unethical. No one could remember ever being required to purchase a textbook to receive a grade in a course.

"It just seems wrong - it's not fair and it seems a bit fishy," another student said. With the cheque or money order policy, the professor is able to keep track of which students have purchased the text.

Required textbooks are usually made available to students at library reserve desks, but in this case the book was not put on reserve.

One student spoke to Annette Werk, the university ombudsperson, about the situation. Werk told the student that another professor required students to buy his book several years ago. The professor eventually dropped the requirement.

Werk said the policy sounded unfair to her, but she was uncertain about the workings of the management faculty.

Mendonca claimed the policy of requiring students to buy textbooks had been "faculty policy for the past several years."

However, Professor Alfred Jaeger, associate dean of management, said he was "not aware" of such a policy in the faculty.

Kanungo cited copyright concerns as a reason for the book not being in the library.

Students were not being forced to buy the textbook, he claimed. But "students must pay ($45) in order to take the course."

Kanungo said the policy was applicable to all students, and he desired "uniformity and conformity in running the course."

"No exception will be made," Kanungo said.

Both Mendoca and Kanungo have articles in the textbook.

Editors fired for printing letter

by Naomi Klein

TORONTO(CUP) - The editors of a student newspaper at York University law school were fired by their student council after the paper was accused of racism.

Obiter Dicta was accused of inciting hatred against black students for printing an anonymous letter in their February 10 edition. Two of the four editors resigned on Feb. 11 before a vote of Osgoode Hall's council.

The letter, written by a 1988 Osgoode graduate, accused black students admitted through an affirmative action program of turning Osgoode into a "national joke."

"I pity the poor student of colour who does deserve to be at Osgoode, he's got 'affirmative action' stamped on his forehead. He's lumped in with those self-serving fools," the letter stated.

The letter also warned that affirmative action recipients anger "qualified" white students who have been refused admission. It suggested they would face violence similar to that of Marc Lepine's against women engineers at l'École Polytechnique in Montréal.

The letter was preceded by a disclaimer from the editors which said it was "highly offensive and potentially inciteful," but they were publishing it to demonstrate "the type of mind-set racism we are up against." The letter appeared in a special edition of the paper devoted to issues of racial and gender equality.

Many university members said they felt publishing the letter in any form incited hatred against the black students at Osgoode.

"The letter was intended to hurt, humiliate and demean," said Chet Singh, York race relations officer. "Articles like that create a climate for violence to occur because it says that we encourage that kind of violent expression."

Kim Nayyer, one of the editors who resigned, said she regretted running the letter.

"We were wrong to print the letter because we did not anticipate the deep hurt that was felt," she said.

The issue was distributed on the morning, but an ad hoc committee had removed it from the stands by 13h00. The committee then demanded the dismissal of the editors and an apology from the student council, the paper's publisher. The council and the committee then redistributed the issue with the offending page removed.

By the afternoon, the editors had circulated 500 copies of a public apology.

On Tuesday evening, 300 students attended a student council general meeting to determine the fate of the editors. Five councillors voted to dismiss them immediately. Three voted against the motion.

"There wasn't malicious intent from the editors, but it was such a blatant error to publish the letter and so hurtful and factually inaccurate," said council president Andrew Evangelista. "People were calling on them to atone for it."

But Catherine Bruder, one of the fired editors, said resignations and dismissals stifle debate rather than solve the problem.

"The dismissals were symbolic gestures to show the black people at our school that people were listening, but it wasn't a common step forward," said Bruder.

She said the council didn't talk to the editors before entertaining the motion. The editors did address the meeting, but Bruder said the council based its decision on a minority opinion.

"It's kind of ironic because this is a law school," she said. "I would hope that students would find the censorship offensive and undemocratic but they probably won't say anything because, well, look what happened to us."

The *Daily* and other member papers of the Canadian University Press will not print anything which is homophombic, racist, or sexist according to their statement of principles.



Candidates Posters Vandalized

OTTAWA (CUP) - The campaign posters of a Carleton University student with cerebral palsy were defaced during recent elections.

"Invalid" and "retard" were scribbled on one of Martin Anderson's posters, and another sported "mongoloid."

Anderson, a candidate in last week's board of governor elections, said the vandal may be an acquaintance.

"Being able to associate those words with a name shows that the person knows of me," said Anderson, "The person obviously is ignorant about my condition and the conditions described on the posters."

Debb Coghlin, a coordinator for the Carleton Disability Awareness Centre, said she was shocked by the incident.

"It's really distressing considering it (was) Disability Awareness Week," she said, "You'd think we'd be able to make some of these idiots aware of this."

Anderson lost the election.

In a similar incident during last year's student council elections, posters of a gay candidate and a black candidate were defaced.



Medical residents get new contract

by Donna Ohora

After a four week strike and two years without a contract, Québec's medical residents have finally reached an agreement with the provincial government. The new contract includes a concession to the residents principal demand of shorter working hours.

The residents voted last Tuesday to approve the agreement.

Dr. Louise Craigg, a representative of the Interns' Association said the agreement had the support of medical residents. "The response was overwhelming in favour of the new contract proposal,"she said. "The residents are relieved and happy with the new contract."

Voting took place at general assemblies in all four of the Québec universities which have medical schools.

The new contract proposes a work schedule of one night in four. During one period a month residents may be required to work a period of one night in three, but they will not have to work more than twenty-four hours straight.

The two thousand member union began to strike January 13. The strike was legal and conformed to essential services legislation.

EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Native Awareness Coalition is sponsoring a Mohawk panel discussion. Kenneth Deer will address the one-sided charges faced by the Warriiors. Pauline Owisokon and Linda Deer will discuss the psychosocial effects of long-term harrasment. 1930h, Rm 26, Leacock.

Prof. Sheila McIntyre from the Queen's faculty of law is speaking on "The 'Tyranny' of politcally Correct." 12h, Moot Court Room, Chancellor Day Hall.

The Progressive Students' Network is having its last meeting before the break. This is you and your group's last chance to network, publicize events and find out about diverse progressive events that are going on. Union 400, 17h.

Aids Action Week are in desparate need of volunteers to come to a meeting and help them out. Union 435, 17h. Info:982-0429.

International Socialists are meeting on "What next for Russia?". Union 425, 19h30. Info: 528-5586.

Lebanese Students' Association of McGill present Prof. Atif Kubursi on,"The Economic Situation of Lebanon and the Middle East". Union 108, 19h30. Info: 398-3961.

Prof. Graeme Decarie, chairman, department of history, Concordia, will be speaking on "Sport and Leisure in Victorian Montreal". Marianopolis College, 3880 Cote des Neiges, 20h, room 119. Info: 931-8792.

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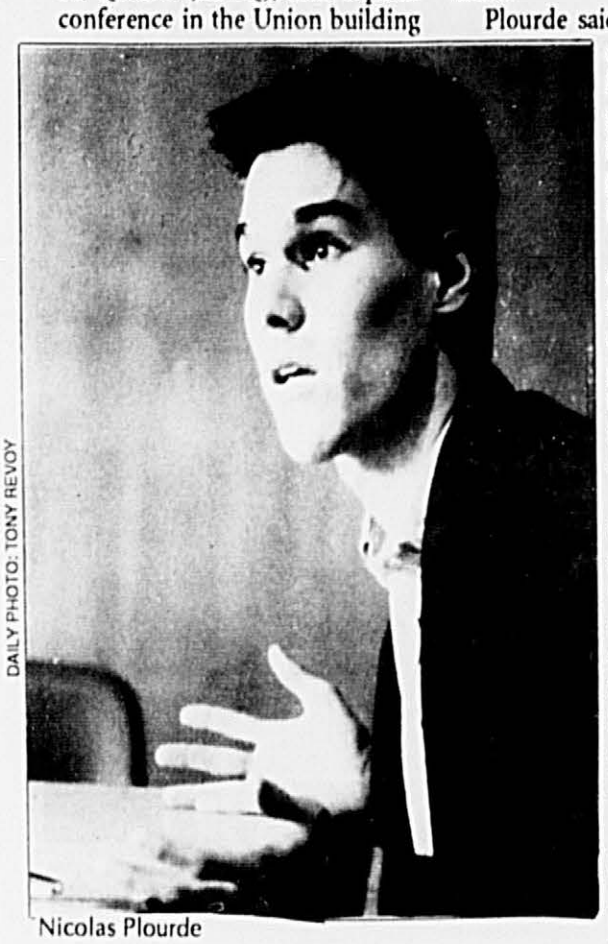
"When FEUQ does it, it will be big": Tricky Nic Plourde

Are these people our 'leaders'?

by Peter Clibbon

Student politicians, journalists and accessibility activists clashed yesterday on the direction of the student movement and McGill's role within it.

Nicolas Plourde, president of La Federation Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), held a press conference in the Union building in order to "raise knowledge on FEUQ policies, notably on the most recent tuition fee hike."



DAILY PHOTO: TONY REVOY

Nicolas Plourde

For two hours, Plourde rebuffed charges from audience members that FEUQ had sold the student movement down the river when it accepted a six per cent tuition fee hike for next year.

"FEUQ offers a new vision and a different approach for the student movement," said Plourde. "We offer a credible and sensible approach to negotiating with the government."

Plourde said FEUQ's lobbying efforts had succeeding in preventing the government from implementing even greater tuition fee increases.

But participants at the conference said FEUQ's conscillatory and pandering approach to issues such as tuition fees amounts to corporatism.

"In the recessionary economic context that we're presently in, to negotiate with government on how much to raise our fees is scandalous," said McGill student Jason Prince.

Student Kristin Andrews said FEUQ has abandonned its primary objectives such as accessibility and low tuition.

"FEUQ says it represents university students, but it has taken positions that actually harm accessibility."

Students' Society joined FEUQ in a referendum in 1990. A counter-referendum six months later, in which McGill students voted to drop out of FEUQ, was invalidated by the Judicial Board over a technicality.

Students' Society membership in FEUQ will go to the ballot for a third time this March.

Plourde denied the visit to McGill was a tactic to turn McGill students' opinion towards FEUQ. "This visit is just one of many that we make to our members. It's just McGill's turn."

Andrews said the conference was unsatisfying because questions from the floor were not encouraged.

"The politicians and journalists held the stage. We need a real debate with a lot more profile."

"NO MEANS NO" APPEAL DROPPED

by Clive Thompson

TORONTO (CUP) - A flawed and expensive sexual harassment complaints procedure has forced women at Queen's University to drop their appeal of the "no means no" case.

"We fully intended to go through with this complaint exactly as the rules say, but it was just too expensive," said Rachel Gorman, one of the complainants. "The procedures made it impossible. We need to ditch the whole procedure and start from scratch."

Gorman - along with three other women - brought a complaint against nine Queen's men two years ago, after the men had postered their residence with signs saying "No Means Kick Her In The Teeth" and "No Means On Your Knees Bitch."

Two weeks ago, the university's sexual harassment board found two of the men guilty of sexual harassment. The board recommended the men write a letter of apology and attend a workshop on violence against women.

The complainants disagree with the ruling. "Though they were glad the university recognized the posters constituted sexual harassment, they would have liked to see Queen's find all nine men guilty," said Gorman.

The complainants decided not to appeal the decision because it required a $250 deposit, and legal counsel that could cost "tens of thousands of dollars," Gorman said.

"It was nothing we could afford," she added. "We were prevented from carrying on the appeal by the rules."

The students are calling for drastic revision of the procedures, including provision of legal aid.

Law professor David Mullan, who chairs a committee revising the procedure, said they are considering changes to allow for legal aid.

"We tend to think that in fact there should be a provision for the costs of individuals," Mullan said.

"Obviously, it's not a good situation if you have the people that can afford high powered lawyers able to participate and those that can't, don't."

At other universities, such as the University of Toronto, complaint procedures make it possible for the institution to pay for an individual's appeal.

The women at Queen's also want the composition of the harassment board changed. Currently, the complainant, the respondent and the Queen's principal each select one member from a pool of candidates for the three-person board.

Gorman said there's no guarantee the members chosen by the principal or complainant will have any background in sexual harassment.

"Obviously, they can be nice people, but in the case of faculty, they have ties that go outside the board and they have no training in sexual harassment," Gorman added. "And they're chosen by a man who has no concept of sexual harassment, [Queen's principal] Michael Smith."

Mullan said the review committee has no plans to recommend changing the board composition, because nobody else at Queen's has raised concerns about it.

"When we spoke to the university community about this, there seemed to be satisfaction from most points of view."

Public Participation For Earth Summit

by Jacquelyn Witte

As the deadline draws near, grassroots organizations are scrambling to get their concerns on the agenda of the upcoming United Nations Earth Summit to be held this summer in Brazil.

This year's Earth Summit will be the third conference on the environment since the creation of the UN Environmental Program in 1972. It will be the first of its kind where heads of state will participate in any decision-making on environmental issues.

Jim MacNeill plays a key role in the organization of the Earth Summit. MacNeill is the senior author of Our Common Future, also known as The Bruntland Report, one of the principal documents used to set the agenda for this year's summit.

"One of the purposes of having an Earth Summit is to put the environment at the center of political and economic decision-making," said MacNeill.

While the participants of the Earth Summit will be politicians, public participation is important in setting the agenda of the summit. The opinions and ideas of grassroots organisations and interest groups are being solicited in a series of parallel conferences. Proposals coming from these conferences will be taken into consideration when the agenda of the Earth Summit is set.

Tom Meredith, head of the Sustainable Development Network at McGill, recently participated in one of these parallel conferences, a conference of the International Alliance of Government Officials and Academics. The conference was held in Brazil. The focus was on the issue of climate change in developing countries.



Politicjans talk about the world

Meredith said the conference gave environmentalists a chance to have their voices heard by the people deciding on international policies.

"It is an opportunity to try and force influential political leaders to think of the issues on the agenda. If there is enough media attention, it will be impossible for leaders not to pay attention and take the issues seriously," said Meredith.

McGill student François Meloche, a member of the Canadian Youth Delegation, is looking forward to going to Costa Rica in March for the final parallel conference. Meloche agreed that the parallel conferences represented an unprecedented opportunity for grass-roots organisations influence decisions made by governments.

"This is the first time that (ordinary) people have been involved in the discussion and have some say in the decision making," said Meloche. "Never before have there been so many groups from around the world meeting to deal with the problems concerning the environment."

The proposals made by the parallel conferences are discussed at preparatory conferences, which involve only diplomats. At the preparatory conferences, diplomats set the agenda for the Earth Summit. The last preparatory conference will be held during the entire month of March in New York.

Parallel conferences will continue even after the agenda for the Earth Summit has been set, and there is no longer any possibility for activists to affect the summit. According to Meredith, the later conferences are intended to act as forums for concerned groups.

"My understanding is that the officials of the conference set-up those parallel talks as a strategic move, because they realize that groups must have a place to talk," said Meredith.

Meredith is optimistic that the Earth Summit will lead to action on environmental problems. "So many people have high expectations. This will help to put pressure on people to perform. I'm not one of those people who think we're on the verge of extinguishing ourselves."

THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

Not coming, but breathing hard

In *1984*, sex was supposed to be immoral, if not illegal. Julia and Winston's post-orgasmic trance in the english countryside was for Orwell a challenge to the existing order of red-sashed anti-sex zealots and an entire social system based on fear, anxiety and oppression.

More recently, flip and fashionable post-everything French theory has promised the identical item. Under the banner of "transgression," some Parisian theorists suggested that social systems could be overthrown by various combinations of hitherto unusual sex and language.

And on this side of the Atlantic, where culture is spelled not with a k but with a c (usually preceded by a "pop") the emphasis on revolution is usually downplayed in favour of "sexual freedoms." In this version, we are "repressed," "out of touch" with our bodies, "inhibited" by the combined forces of state, society and (sometimes) church.

Each of these three approaches is valid — to some degree, in some times and places. But as the industrial tide ebbs away to be replaced by who knows what monstrous post-industrial era, it's becoming clear that sex is just as likely to support oppressive power relations as to destroy them.

Social elites are no longer stone-faced men in sober suits and tall black hats. They're just as likely to be swinging jet-setters with designer clothing and kinky lifestyles to match, including a full range of sexual practices, replete with batteries of expensive sex toys.

Instead of depriving the masses of sex, or imposing rigid puritanical norms, the strategy of this social elite is often to use sex as a political tool for perpetuating a vastly inegalitarian social system.

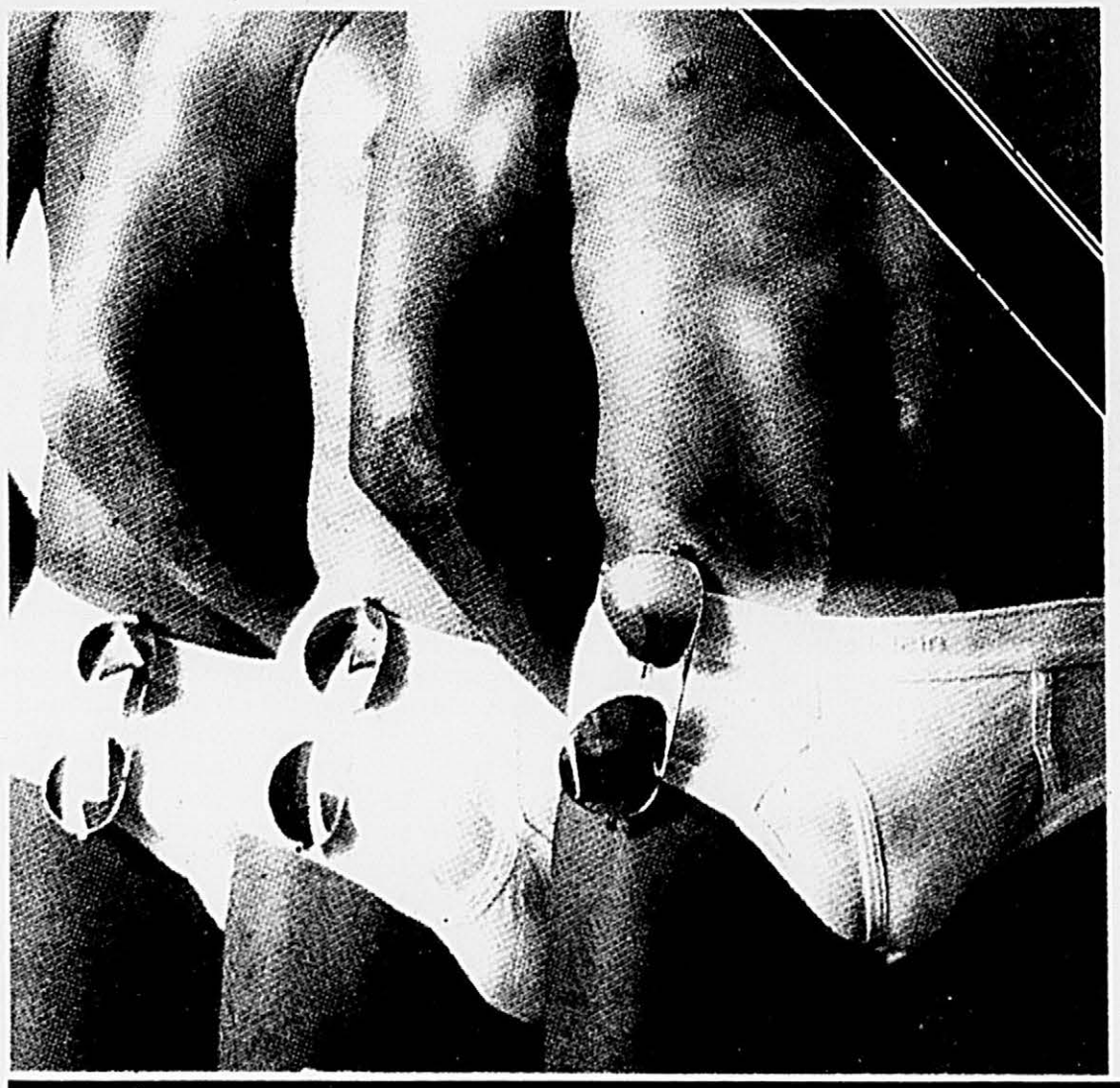
Sex is central to the symbolism of power on this continent. The vast majority of objects and styles which denote wealth, privilege and power are linked with sexual motifs, from bodies, clothing, and perfume to cars and even architecture.

This sex-laced symbolism validates the existence of the social order through its mystique and exclusivity. Instead of understanding and opposing the social and political hierarchy this symbolism masks, people attempt to emulate it. After all, what ideal could be more inspiring than a vision of expensive consumer goods imbued with the patina of latent sexuality...

Sex in a variety of guises can be very effective at altering the balance of things and upsetting oppressive power relations. But by now it's also tied very closely to, and used effectively by, dominant centres of power.

It's dangerous not to question revolutions which come so fast and easy.

Robin LeBaron **Katerina Cizek**



LETTERS

Response to Israeli parrot

To the Daily:

Doron Goldstein (letter Jan 22) faithfully parrots the official line of the Israeli government when he argues that United Nation Resolution 242 does not require Israel to relinquish most of the territories it captured during the Six Day war.

It is true that the authors of UN 242 deliberately used wording that did not ask Israel to retreat from every inch of the occupied lands. But this call for an Israeli withdrawal from "territories" rather than "the territories" was only to allow for "minor border adjustments", according to former US undersecretary of state Dean Rusk. It was never intended to legitimize Israeli occupation of large areas of Arab land. This was even acknowledged by former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin in a 1970 speech to the Knesset, when he said the UN resolution meant "giving up Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) — not all the territories, but by all opinion, most of them."

Mr Goldstein's absurd claim that UN 242 "does not mean land for peace" is more befitting a paid propagandist for the Likud party than a student of Political Science. The fact is that with the exception of the ruling right-wing government in Israel and its gaggle of apologists in the West, virtually the entire international community considers land-for-peace to be the cornerstone of UN 242. That has been the official position of six successive US administrations, and continues to be to this day. As recently as March 6 in his address before a joint session of Congress, president Bush restated the American (and international) conviction that "a comprehensive peace must be grounded in: UN resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace."

Regretfully, Mr. Goldstein's reading of UN 242 is as selective as it is intellectually dishonest. Not only does he deliberately ignore the international consesus, but he conveniently disregards the preable to the resolution ,which clearly emphasizes the "inadmissibility of the acquistion of territory by war." The dictionary defines "inadmissible" as something that is not allowed, not permitted, not to be tolerated. This is how UN 242 — and the world comunity — views Israel's occupation.

One can only hope that Mr. Goldstein applies a more vigorous standard of scholarship to his academic endeavors than he does to his letters to the editor.

Omar Sartawi

Response to a fool

To the Daily:

I must take this opportunity to thank my parents and grandparents. If it were not for them I would not be able to recognize a fool when I hear/see/read one. It seems you, my good friend Emmanuel, are one such person.

A fool, when faced with information previously unknown to him/her, dismisses it as if he already knew everything.

I know your type: Big mouth and small mind. If your mind was not small, you would have the courage/sense to examine the evidence in the Black History Month supplement and then speak (or keep quiet).

Not you, Mr. Bourbouhekis, you are a coward who hides behind shallow letters; who screams but says nothing.

If I am wrong, I'm sure that you will let me know. If I'm wrong I'm sure that you will call and ask us where you can find out more information about the articles. (I'm sure that you didn't look at the booklist that was included in the suppplement).

If you're a true history student, as you say you are, I'm sure that you'll give us a call at 398-6815. But I know your type, so I won't wait up for you.

Dave Austin
U2 Arts

HYDE PARK

Anatomy Students stiffed

opinion by the McGill Anatomy Students' Society

At a recent Anatomy faculty meeting it was announced that as of the fall 1992 semester, there will be no Histology, Systematic or Neuroanatomy undergraduate labs. The descion to discontinue these labs was based on current budget cuts which have tied our professors hands and left them with no option. McGill's dire financial state has resulted in cutbacks at all levels. The extent of these cuts on the Anatomy department now prohibit the employment of qualified demonstrators, without which there can no labs.

The importance of laboratory work in any scientific discipline cannot be overemphasized. The lab aspect of any course gives new insight and perspective to the schematic diagrams in orienting organs and organelles, giving then finite size and shape *in situ*. The practical hands on experience of independent lab work allows students to obtain a real grasp for course material that would otherwise be highly abstract and theoretical. Labs enrich the learning experince well beyond the reach of any textbook or atlas, providing intellectual stimulation an undergraduate program cannot afford to lose.

Therre is no question that money is tight, and at a time when the future of English academia in Montréal is being threatened, we sympathize with McGill adminstration's financial crisis. But make no mistake. We will not be the solution to their problem. We, the students, are McGill's responsibility. It is our responsibility to learn. It is the university's responsibility to provide that education. Cutting labs from the Anatomy department is like cutting footballs from the football team. With cuts like these McGill will never amount to anything more than its increasiongly hollow reputation, no matter what Macleans magazine says.

Student action saved dentistry and prevented one foolish mistake, now let's prevent another.

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A ODD MAN IN

ECONOMICS LOOKS FOR A NEW CHAIR

Professors in McGill's troubled economics department reacted with disbelief to the nomination of the department's next chair.

by Alex Roslin

A departmental committee nominated professor Antal Deutsch for the position of chair last week. Several professors are already concerned that having Deutsch as chair would result in bitter political infighting and possibly threaten the future of the department.

"I am shocked. This is not a wise choice for chair," said Kari Levitt, professor emeritus, and one of the department's most senior and widely respected scholars.

Deutsch's nomination represents a victory for the department's right wing, said Levitt. She suggested the department should have chosen a more moderate and qualified candidate, like professor Chris Green.

"This recommendation will create deep divisions and reopen old wounds that go back 10 years, all quite unnecessarily," said Levitt, interviewed from Jamaica where she is on leave.

Sid Ingerman, another senior professor in the department, said he also opposes Deutsch and will vote against him in a poll of all economics professors over the next two weeks.

"His role in the department has contributed to a great deal of divisiveness, and there are strong alternative candidates," Ingerman said.

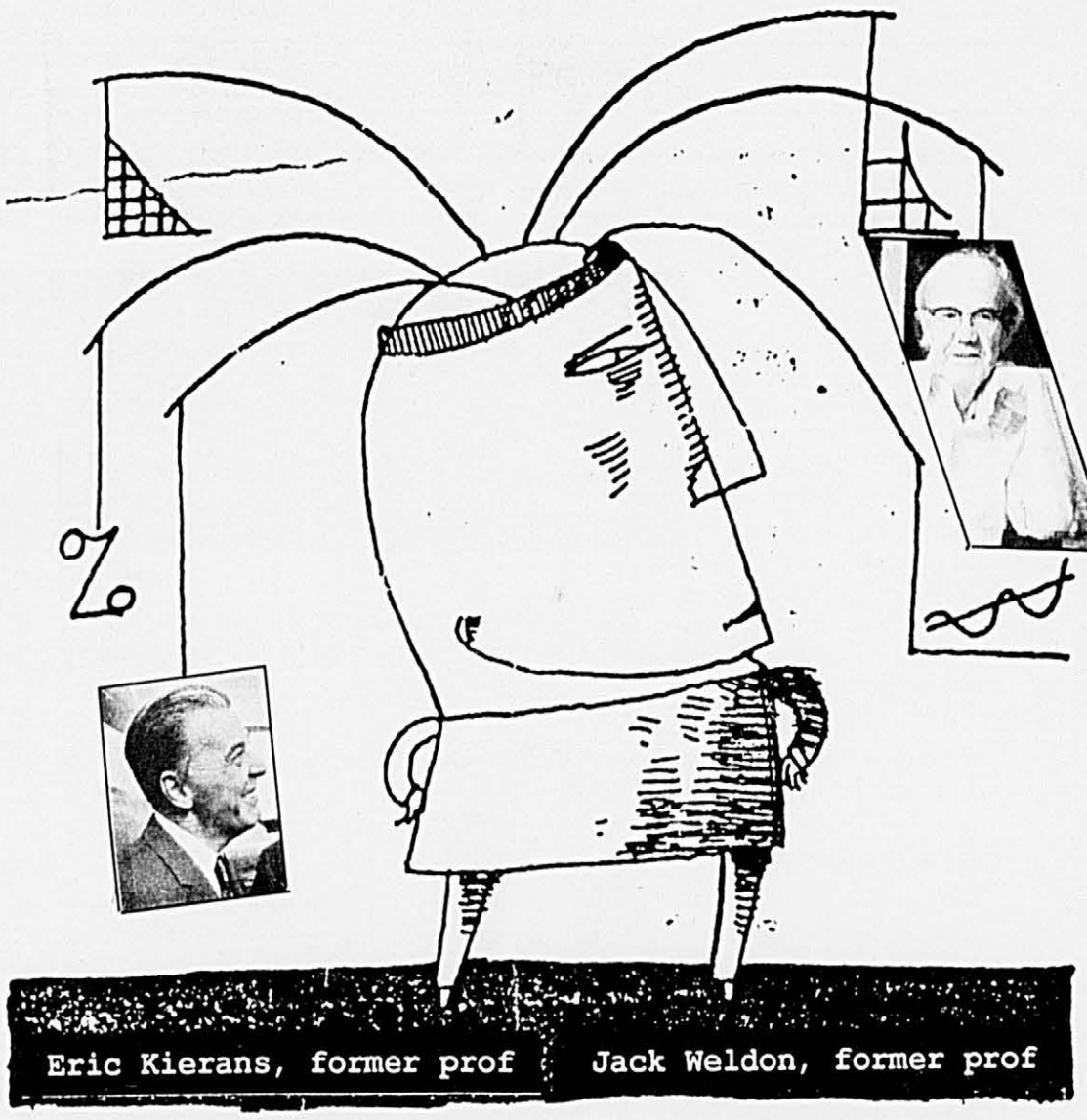
Dean of arts Michael Maxwell will make the final decision on February 27, after the votes are all in, though he is not bound by the professors' vote.

Economics chair John McCallum, who steps down as chair in June to become the next dean of arts, said he supports Deutsch. "I can see how people may raise some concerns, but I think the department has gone beyond the old battles," he said.

Deutsch said the vociferous opposition does not surprise him. "Anyone who ran for chair would face opposition," he said, adding that he is nevertheless confident of winning the vote.

Despite McCallum's and Deutsch's optimism, the vote is unlikely to show a clear majority for Deutsch. According to an informal survey of professors by a department member who refused to be identified, 13 profs will vote against Deutsch and 15 will support him.

"So much for consensus," the professor said.



Eric Kierans, former prof — Jack Weldon, former prof

WORST IN CANADA

For many professors, Deutsch's nomination for chair represents the last gasp in the McGill economics department's decade-long decline. Once widely regarded as one of Canada's best, the department is now rated by many as one of the country's worst. Declining standards in profs' publications records and teaching abilities have hurt the department's graduate program and placement record for students.

Some McGill economics professors privately say that Deutsch is the single professor most responsible for the department's collapse and for the bitter emnity which has paralyzed it for a decade.

The decline first started, they say, over 10 years ago during the so-called Deutsch affair, when a number of economics professors became embroiled in a vicious dispute over Deutsch's promotion to full professor.

In the dispute, McGill took the side of the conservative Deutsch against three of the department's best-known liberal professors: former department chair Tom Asimakopulos, Jack Weldon and former federal and provincial cabinet minister Eric Kierans. The university Senate issued formal reprimands against the three, in what some circles said was an underhanded ploy by Deutsch to discredit his opponents to gain a promotion.

McGill's reprimand was investigated by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, which eventually supported the three professors against Deutsch and rebuked McGill for mishandling the affair.

Nevertheless, the dispute left Deutsch with a full professorship, while the department's liberal faction was thrown into disarray as three of its most active members struggled to clear their reputations of any wrong-doing.

By the mid-1980s, the conflict resulting from the Deutsch affair had so embroiled the economics department the university placed it under trusteeship.

At the same time, the department's priorities were quietly reorganized, under the tutelage of Deutsch and his supporters. Professors were now rated by the number of academic tracts they published and research contracts they snagged. Also, the department hired a new crew of conservative American-trained economists.

The shift in the department's priorities was part of a larger realignment in the entire university's direction. McGill was moving towards more conservative policies, which culminated in last year's controversial report of McGill's Task Force on Planning and Priorities. The report implied a greater emphasis on research over undergraduate education, and much closer links between academics and the private sector.

THE FINAL DECLINE

But for all the economics department's emphasis on research and publishing, its research record and graduate program has nearly collapsed.

Over the last five years, the department has graduated an average of only three PhDs each year, down from five a year in the first half of the 1980s.

The problems recently became a source of public embarassment for McGill after York university economics chair George Fallis released a survey of all economics departments at Canadian universities. The study ranked McGill's department as one of the worst in the country in terms of the publications record of its professors.

Deutsch himself is seen by the left-wing professors in the department as someone who will preside over the department's final decline.

One professor, who also didn't want to be named, noted that Deutsch's publications record is remarkably meager. Deutsch is cited no more than half a dozen times during the entire 1980s in the Social Sciences Citation Index. Professors Naylor and Levitt, on the other hand, are cited over a hundred times each.

Yet another problem is that Deutsch rarely supervises PhDs and teaches no grad courses. One MA student said Deutsch is a poor choice because he is virtually unknown to many grad and undergrad students. She has never taken a course with him even though she has been in economics for six years. "Deutsch would not be my obvious choice for chair," she said.

Another MA student who wished to be unnamed characterized the Deutsch nomination as "completely depressing."

"McCallum already screwed up the place, but Deutsch will be the death of the department. I once considered doing my PhD here, but now forget it," he said.

FUNNY DEAL

If Deutsch is appointed chair, the last of the older left-wing professors seem ready to withdraw from departmental politics. Already, the conservatives easily dominate departmental decision-making. The departmental committee which nominates the chair was able to select Deutsch because all three positions on the committee are held by conservatives.

But the department's left-wing dissidents are not going out without a fight.

One department member pointed to an ominous example of what lies ahead. At a meeting last fall between McCallum and three other professors, the chair promised he would work against the appointment of any "hardliner like Deutsch" to replace him. Present at the meeting was Tom Naylor, a long-time critic of the department's policies.

Naylor at the time was on the verge of filing a formal grievance against two of the department's conservative members, who he claimed had been spying on and interfering with his classes. Naylor agreed to drop the grievance in exchange for McCallum's promise.

Another possible point of conflict is an unusual deal Deutsch seems to have arranged should he become chair. Some department members allege that Deutsch has made a deal with McCallum which will allow him to go on leave during the second year of his appointment as chair, an arrangement which is highly irregular. The normal term for a chair is three years.

Deutsch told the *Daily* only that he would like to go on sabbatical sometime in the next few years, but said he would discuss the exact timing with McCallum when he becomes dean of arts.

Professor Allen Fenichel, a critic of the department's commitment to teaching, commented: "I can't say Deutsch's appointment would devastate the department, that's already been done. But this certainly isn't going to help."

A New Acropolis or an old Game?

Members of Nouvelle Acropole, an international "humanitarian" group, say they hope to attain a global vision of the world, and revalue the interior, spiritual realm through the study of ancient philosophical texts. They oppose"cultural relativism and materialism".

by Viviane Weitzner

According to Nouvelle Acropole director Jorge Angel Livraga, the group fights the "racism, sectarism, and ideological reductionism with which our society is daily confronted."

But critics say the organization has a sinister hidden agenda. Under the guise of benevolent humanism, they argue, Nouvelle Acropole promotes racist, even fascist, philosophies.

Racist, sexist, anti-democratic?

Controversy began last March, when Livraga gave a conference on racism at the Université de Québec a Montréal (UQAM), after Frederic Zalac, a journalist at UQAM's paper *Montréal Campus*, published his research on Nouvelle Acropole's history and background.

Zalac obtained several documents attributed to Nouvelle Acropole, an international society claiming membership in 50 different countries. The documents were full of racist and sexist comments, according to Zalac.

The documents also said Nouvelle Acropole recruited members through hidden messages in their literature. These messages were supposedly explained fully to potential members when they were "ready".

Finally, the documents suggested the group has an anti-democratic political philosophy, according to Zalac.

"The hierarchisation of different political systems is taught in Nouvelle Acropole's courses in Montréal," Zalac wrote. "Their classification is, from best to worst: theocracy, royalty, aristocracy, oligarchy, democracy, and tyranny."



DAILY PHOTO: LAUREL HUGHES

Denis Bricnet

Phantoms of the left

But Nouvelle Acropole's Montréal director Denis Bricnet said the documents are not a valid reflection of his organisation. According to Bricnet, they were published in France in 1977. They were partially forged, and partially based on innacurate, out of context translations of the group's writings, he said.

Nouvelle Acropole went to court in France in 1982 and again in 1985, claiming that the documents were used for purposes of defamation. A French superior court judgement finally recognized Nouvelle Acropole's "good will", and eliminated all fees for lawyers and damages, according to Bricnet.

Bricnet claimed the documents were deliberately fabricated by organizations linked with the French socialist party.

"The right makes the politics of the left, and the left makes the politics of the right," he said. He claimed extreme right-wing French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen was a similar "phantom" created by the left.

Bricnet also denied claims that Nouvelle Acropole literature contained hidden messages.

"I don't think that we should take people for fools," he said. "We shouldn't assume people are stupid enough to be manipulated, to accept literature about universal philosophy and humanism, and then to accept literature that says the opposite."

"We don't have a literature saying 'Let's go conquer the world'."

Black shirts and Plato

Despite complaints, the March conference at UQAM took place. Black-clothed organisers burned a white candle before Livraga arrived. When he walked in, all members rose to their feet, military style.

While the conference took place, a KKK demonstation took place outdoors.

Bricnet said that the KKK demonstration was pure coincidence, produced by the media. He said that UQAM had no problems with the conference, but was influenced by the media hype that occured.

But Yves Casgrain from Info-Secte, a centre documenting the philosophies and activities of different sects, said the evidence suggests that Nouvelle Acropole is a hierarchical, racist group.

Critics say the organization has a sinister hidden agenda. Under the guise of benevolent humanism, they argue, Nouvelle Acropole promotes racist, even fascist, philosophies.



Symbol of Nouvelle Acropole

One of Livraga's speeches on Plato contained a fascist message, Casgrain said, although it was probably incomprehesible to people without "the tools to decode it."

Livraga used Plato's cave image to describe the relationship between Nouvelle Acropole and democracy. He claimed the cave represented democracy, while Nouvelle Acropole members see the true light outside it.

Casgrain, who supplied Zalac with information on the group, said the documents Zalac used were a good reflection of the group's intent.

Comments by former members of the organization suggest that the organisation is at least very hierarchical, and has some fascist-style trappings.

The former members claimed in an interview with Zalac that after they had passed the second level of courses, they were invited to banquets where a "red and black flag with a large golden eagle at the centre" was hoisted. The banqueteers wore black, and saluted Bricnet and his wife.

They also said they received literature which they were told not to show anyone else.

Others have suggested that Nouvelle Acropole's symbols have fascist connotations, and that it has organised a small paramilitary group.

Bricnet refused to comment on anonymous statements, saying only "I will answer as long as the identities are given." But he denied the essence of the comments by the two ex-members.

He denied to the *Daily* both the allegations about the group's symbols and about its paramilitary group.

Pretentious, semi-religious and unsettling

After the March conference, Pierre Gadu, the president of UQAM student services, prohibited Nouvelle Acropole from hosting any further conferences at the university.

"There are two technical reasons for this prohibition," said Gadu. "UQAM lets rooms to non-profit organisations for free, but they are not allowed to solicit," he said. "Nouvelle Acropole asked for an admissions fee."

"And in their publicity they presented a graphic suggesting that UQAM was linked with them," he said.

Complaints about the organisation; its "pretentious, and semi-religious, unsettling," publications; and the sudden activity of skinheads and the KKK all led to UQAM's decision to bar the organisation from university premises, according to Gadu.

Nouvelle Acropole the group did not respond to Gadu's demands for a clear answer as to its goals and theory, and did not present Gadu with any supporting documents to look at, he said.

"We had the feeling they were afraid, and wanted to escape rather than fight," said Gadu.

Since this controversy broke out last March, Nouvelle Acropole has not been advertising its events and conferences at UQAM.

Questionable aid

The UQAM conference isn't the only incident involving Nouvelle Acropole in controversy.

Last November, the group organised a soirée to aid the victims of cholera in Peru. Five hundred people were invited, and events included Latin American music, dances and food. Although the event was successful, it generated some questions.

A variety of local organisations, businesses and individuals sponsored the event. But after of the negative publicity surrounding Nouvelle Acropole, some people, including local MNA André Boulérice, asked for their money back.

"They abused my good will and my sensitivity with regard to the problems of Latin America," Boulérice told L'aut' journal. "I could not in any case fund such an organisation."

L'aut' journal accused the organisation of false advertising, saying the money did not go directly to the prevention of cholera but to the organisation's own "Seraphi" centres, which practice questionable "bio-energetic" medicine. The soiree's advertising did not specify that money would go to these centres.

But according to original Spanish documents obtained by *The Daily*, the Sefaphi centres are recognized by the Peruvian government as centres administering free cholera vaccinations.

At the advice of the Seraphis in Lima, the money from the event (approximately $2600 Cdn) went towards the creation of "new centres for detection of the illness" and equipment for these centres. The centres will be located in remote areas where there are none presently, according to Seraphi literature.

CLASSIFIEDS

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.
McGill Students (with valid ID): $3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, $2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) $4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, $3.50 per day. All others: $5.00 per day, or $4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person – WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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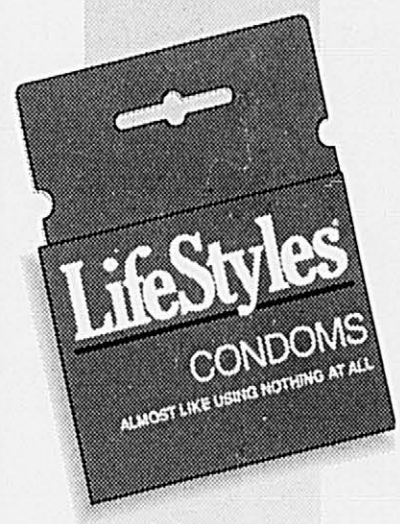
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